

Council on Postsecondary Education
May 21, 2007

Committee on Equal Opportunities Report

Kentucky entered into a partnership with the U. S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights to bring the Commonwealth into compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The partnership is a joint, cooperative effort between the Commonwealth, the institutions, and the OCR. *The Kentucky Plan*, established by postsecondary education to accomplish the same objectives as the partnership, is folded into the agreement with the OCR.

The Commonwealth is contracting with the Presidents and Fellows of Harvard College (Harvard Civil Rights Project) to conduct a statewide diversity study for public postsecondary education in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The HCRP indicated that among the first steps of study implementation is the review of the pending U. S. Supreme Court decision regarding the desegregation efforts of the Louisville/Jefferson County public school system. The U. S. Supreme Court is expected to hand down its decision in the Louisville case by mid-May.

The CEO conducted a campus visit at Madisonville Community and Technical College March 26. The campus visit report will be presented and acted on by the CEO at its June 18 meeting. The report will then be shared with the CPE.

The CEO met April 16 in Louisville on the campus of Jefferson Community and Technical College. Following is a summary of CEO actions.

- The committee received a report by JCTC President Anthony Newberry regarding the implementation of the recommendations from the CEO campus visit. The committee noted the immediate results identified by Dr. Newberry and commended him for the seriousness that JCTC placed on implementing the committee's recommendations.
- Mr. Terry Allen, associate vice president for institutional equity and equal opportunity, reported on the University of Kentucky's success in implementing the recommendations from the CEO campus visit. Responding to a query from the committee, Mr. Allen noted that the new associate provost for diversity will report to the provost but also will sit on the president's council. The committee noted that Mr. Allen did a good job of reporting the university's actions but requested that staff invite the university's provost to the CEO's June meeting to respond to a number of specific questions regarding several areas of the university over which Mr. Allen has no authority or responsibility.
- The committee received the CPE reports from the Developmental Education Task Force and the STEM Task Force and asked to be kept informed regarding the next

steps by CPE to implement these two important policy initiatives. The committee asked the CPE members to keep in mind the role given the committee to advocate that all students are included in important policy measures.

- The committee noted that it is its policy/preference that the president or a member of the cabinet (provost or vice president) be present at the CEO meeting to discuss the institution's actions to implement strategies in addressing recommendations from the campus visit reports. They noted that, while institutional EEO representatives can provide information, they have no direct authority over the areas on which they are reporting.
- The committee adopted a resolution requesting the CPE chair to send a letter to Regina Crawford, executive director for boards and commissions, reminding and requesting that the Governor ensure that each university board of regents or trustees include African American representation and that each community and technical college board of directors include African American representation. Currently the community and technical college boards of directors do not have African American representation among their appointed members. The General Assembly, by request of KCTCS, moved the authority for appointment of members of the boards of directors to the Governor. The CPE may consider including a list of potential appointees with the letter to Ms. Crawford.
- The committee adopted a resolution directing the CEO chair to write a letter to the executive director for boards and commissions requesting that the Governor make appointments (per the requirements of the partnership with the U. S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights) that ensure board strength and continuity of leadership for the Kentucky State University Board of Regents. The letter may include suggestions for consideration by the Governor.
- The committee adopted a resolution acknowledging the honor bestowed by Auburn University upon Dr. Dennis W. Weatherby, NKU associate provost for student success. Auburn University named a scholarship for the Weatherby family in recognition of the efforts of Dennis Weatherby to develop and implement successful strategies to bring greater diversity to the university's engineering program. The public dedication of the scholarship was conducted April 16, 2007, at Auburn University.

At its June 18 meeting, the committee will receive a report from Kentucky State University regarding its efforts to implement the recommendations of the campus visit report. The CEO also will receive a report from Eastern Kentucky University and Maysville Community and Technical College regarding actions by their respective boards of regents to implement new academic programs under the quantitative waiver status.

The remaining Committee on Equal Opportunities meeting dates for 2007 are June 18, August 13-14, and October 15. All meetings are scheduled to be held in Frankfort unless otherwise noted.

Staff preparation by Sherron Jackson and Rana Johnson